Librarian.

LIBRARY MONTH

APRIL 2023

No Boundaries In Sight.
Welcome to Braille Institute Library Month and Open House 2023 Edition of The Librarian

Welcome to this edition of the Librarian! Learn all about our upcoming Library Month & Open House 2023! During all of April, we will celebrate libraries with a dazzler of in-person and online events: panels, presentations, poetry, author readings, artist tours, star gazers, new patron workshops, good book recs, and all-around fun. Because no one has fun like the library. Our Open House, featuring the newly redesigned Library in Los Angeles, will be held **Wednesday, April 26, from 10am to 2pm** with a full schedule, including music, poetry, and lunch. All are invited! We can’t wait to have you back in the Library.

— Lisa Lepore, Library Director

LA Library is Open and Ready to Serve You

We’re back! Stop by the library to pick up a book, visit the tech bar, chat with staff, or just spend time in our newly refreshed space. We are open Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We look forward to having you here in person!
The Librarian newsletter is published in large print, braille, and audio formats to share information about Braille Institute programs and services with our clients and community of partners. It is also available on our website, brailleinstitute.org/library, and on the Telephone Reader Program. Braille Institute is a nonprofit providing free programs and services to people with vision loss since 1919. For more information about the Librarian newsletter, or about library services, please call 1-800-808-2555.

Library Kids and Family Day

The Library is going to have a special Open House day just for children and their families! The Kids and Family Day will be on Saturday, May 13, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We will explore the new Kids Room and the Sensory Wall and Mural with artist Megan Whitmarsh.

Special guest Henry Lien, author of the Peasprout Chen series will also be here to keep our families entertained with his musical storytelling. Free lunch will be provided, so please join us!

To RSVP for Family Day, please call 1-800-808-2555 or email bils@brailleinstitute.org.

Changes To Our Covid-19 Protocols

Braille Institute of America (BIA) is no longer requiring vaccinations or boosters for patrons, students, staff members, volunteers, or visitors who come in-person to our libraries or centers. While BIA no longer require COVID-19 vaccinations or boosters, we do strongly encourage getting vaccinated and staying current on boosters – measures proven to reduce COVID-19 transmission and serious illness. We also encourage the wearing of a face mask onsite as added protection against COVID-19. Please stay home and do not come to the center if you are not feeling well.
The Astronomers’ Workshop
Wed. April 05, 1 – 2:30pm
In-person BIA LA Library and online via TEAMS
Can people hear celestial dust? Touch a galaxy? Join us for a lively conversation with actual astronomers who are blind and sighted – Nic Bonne, Carol Christian, Thomas Madura, and Ken Silberman.
Learn why new technologies like 3D printing and data sonification make astronomy more accessible for the blind while exploring tactile models.

Ziggy Stardust Poetry Jam
Fri. April 07, 1 – 2:30pm
Online via TEAMS
Celestial poetry anyone? In honor of our visiting astronomers, Erin Schalk will lead a poetry writing workshop celebrating the skies, the Milky Way, all those planets turning on their axes. If you’re new or a veteran to writing poetry, you’re good! Come make poetry!

Record Your Own “Why I Love the Library” Story!
Thurs. April 06, 1 – 3pm
In-person BIA LA Library
Tell us what libraries mean to you! Make a recording in our new Recording Studio, we’ll save it in our archive as you support and celebrate the library for now and generations to come. With Ivan Johnson.

BIA READS: Book Discussion of Leona Godin’s There Plant Eyes
Mon. April 10, 2 – 3pm
Online via TEAMS
Meet us online for a rich conversation on the BIA READS book There Plant Eyes led by Lynn Dubinsky.

Leona Godin in conversation with Maggie Nelson
Wed. April 12, 1 – 2:15pm
In-person BIA LA Library and on TEAMS
Join us for an in-person conversation with Leona Godin author of There Plant Eyes, a personal and historical examination of blindness, and Maggie Nelson, poet, critical theorist, and author of The Argonauts and most recently Freedom.

Tech-Talk: Library Technology
Thurs. April 13, 3 – 4pm
Online via TEAMS
Join Library and Connection Pointe staff online to talk about the e-reader, Victor Stream, talking book machine, bring your questions and share your wisdom! Learn about the NLS and BIA Library offerings.
Charlamos de la Tecnología Bibliotecaria: En español

Jueves 13 de Abril de 3pm a 4pm
TEAMS/en línea

Unase al personal de Library and Connection Pointe en línea para hablar sobre el lector electrónico, Victor Stream Reader, la máquina de libros parlantes, ¡Traiga sus preguntas y comparta su sabiduría!

Public Libraries and Our Right to Read

Wed. April 19, 1 – 2:15pm
Online via TEAMS

Join a panel of professional librarians from all areas of librarianship as they discuss access to books, who has the right to read, effects of book banning, and the strength and vulnerability of public libraries. Emily Drabinski, Chancey Fleet, James Gibson, Candice Mack, Melissa Rodriguez, Kayla Smith.

¡Viva la Literatura Latinoamericana!

Jueves, 20 Abril, 1 – 2:30pm
TEAMS/en línea

Diálogo sobre el impacto literario de escritores clásicos como Gabriel García Márquez e Isabel Allende. Sus contribuciones han creado el camino para generaciones de escritores en latinoamérica y el mundo! ¡Unase a nuestra conversación! con Melissa Rodriguez.

BIA Santa Barbara Library Open House

Fri. April 21, 2 – 4pm
In-person BIA
Santa Barbara Library

Come to our Library Open House in Santa Barbara! New mural, braille and large print books, refreshments and fun!

BIA San Diego Library Mixer!

Mon. April 24, 1 to 2:30
In-person BIA
San Diego Library

Meet new and old friends, enjoy BIA patrons discuss secret Library hacks, ways to find great reads, and technology tips.

New Patron Workshop

In-person BIA LA Library

Wed. April 26, 12 – 1pm

Learn about library tech, BARD, ordering books, online catalog, and workshops. With Tina Herbison, Siran Aytayan, and Mary Khalil.

Nuevo Patron Workshop

En vivo, Biblioteca BIA en Los Angeles
Miercoles, 26 Abril, 1 – 2pm

¡Aprende sobre tecnología bibliotecaria, BARD, pedidos de libros, catálogo en línea, clases y talleres! con Juana Gonzalez y Yanci Muñoz.

BIA LOS ANGELES LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE

Wed. April 26, 10am – 2pm

Join us for our Open House and celebration of the Reimagined LA Library!

The special guest emcee for the Open House program is long time library patron Donald Wenner. Tour the Library, enjoy LA Poet Laureate’s Lynne Thompson’s reading, hear from author/musician/patron Jeff Moyer, record a message in our Recording Studio, meet artists Megan Whitmarsh and Carla Tome, creators of the BIA Children’s Library Sensory Wall and Mural, live jazz music, and lunch served!

To RSVP, please call 1-800-808-2555 or email bils@brailleinstitute.org.

Learn more at brailleinstitute.org/library-workshops
Staff Picks

Our staff members love to read as much as you do! Here are a few recommendations from members of our library team. To read staff bios and see their full lists of picks, please check out the Library page on our website. BrailleInstitute.org/library.

KOKOI ARYEE, Senior Library Administrator

**Still Life**
by Louise Penny — DB 66731 / BR 20557
Narrator: Anne Hancock (10 hours, 37 minutes)

Shortly after elderly Jane Neal finally agrees to participate in the art show to be held in her small village outside of Montreal, she is killed by an arrow through the heart. As Chief Inspector Gamache investigates, he wonders if her unusual artwork provides a clue to her murder. 2005

SIRAN AYTAAYAN, Reader Advisor and BARD Administrator

**An American Tragedy**
by Theodore Dreiser — DB 23138
Narrator: John Stratton (35 hours, 7 minutes)

First published in 1925 and based on an actual murder case, this classic novel depicts the dark side of the American dream in the story of a young man who will do almost anything to gain wealth and social acceptance. While he loves a poor factory worker who is carrying his child, he is dazzled by a rich woman who seems to embody all his fantasies.

JUANA GONZALEZ, Reader Advisor

**Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows**
by J.K. Rowling — DB 92235 / BR 17210
Narrator: Jim Dale (21 hours, 38 minutes)

This sequel to *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* (DB 92234) is the seventh and concluding volume in the series that follows young wizard Harry Potter and his friends and enemies through his years at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Commercial audiobook. For grades 4-7. 2007.
**TINA HERBISON, Reader Services Manager**

**The Four Agreements: A Practical Guide to Personal Freedom**

by Miguel Ruiz — DB 50851
Narrator: Jim Johnston (2 hours, 42 minutes)

These four agreements, or steps, are based on the wisdom of the Toltec, a pre-Colombian society that embraced the spiritual knowledge and practices of their ancestors. Ruiz asserts that these four beliefs can guide one in developing a code of conduct that leads to personal freedom. Bestseller. 1997.

---

**IVAN JOHNSON, Materials Development Coordinator**

**The Good Lord Bird**

by James McBride — DB 77431
Narrator: David Hartley-Margolin (12 hours, 39 minutes)


---

**YANCI MUNOZ, Reader Advisor**

**Become a Better You**

by Joel Osteen — DB 65690
Narrator: Bill Wallace (4 hours, 51 minutes)

Pastor of Houston’s Lakewood Church and author of Your Best Life Now offers advice on applying biblical principles to make positive changes in one’s life. Advocates becoming more self-confident and developing better relationships and habits. Includes examples of transformation from his ministry. Bestseller. 2007.
JOIN US!
Braille Institute Los Angeles Library Open House
Wednesday April 26, 10am – 2pm

• Hear from author/musician/patron Jeff Moyer
• Poetry reading by LA Poet Laureate Lynne Thompson
• Meet artists Megan Whitmarsh and Carla Tome and view the new sensory wall and mural
• Enjoy a live jazz performance
• Make a recording in our new recording studio
• Visit the tech bar with new devices
• Meet the library staff
• Enjoy refreshments and lunch

To RSVP, please call 1-800-808-2555, or email bils@brailleinstitute.org.